

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01552 271038Z

21

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 271015Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8443

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1552

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR SU EG

SUBJ: BSO TERRORISTS RELEASE: SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 138514

1. EMBASSY HAS RELIABLE REPORT THAT GOS MINISTER FOR EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS, SALAH ABDEL AAL MABROUK, APPARENTLY JUNE 23 MADE QUICK, AND TO DATE UNPUBLICIZED, TRIP TO CAIRO AND BACK. PRUPOSE OF TRIP WAS TO INFORM AND DISCUSS WITH SADAT NIMEIRI'S DECISION TO RELEASE EIGHT BSO ASSASSINS. AS REPORTED TO US, SADAT WELCOMED DECISION. HE REPORTELY FELT THIS ACTION PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN TERMS TAKING POTENTIAL ISSUE AWAY FROM QADHAFI. SADAT REPORTEDLY TOLD MABROUK THAT HE (SADAT) BELIEVES THAT EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT PALESTINIAN ISSUE -- PARTICULARLY IN TERMS ENCOURAGING POSSIBLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE -- IS ONE OF LAST CARDS AVAILABLE TO QADHAFI AS HE SEEKS UNDERCUT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. BY RELEASING BSO TERRORISTS, SUDAN WOULD CLEARLY REMOVE MAJOR TARGET FOR SUCH PALESTINIAN ACTION AND GO LONG WAY TOWARDS NEUTRALIZING EVEN THAT LAST CARD. SADAT, MOREOVER, REPORTEDLY UNDERTOOK TO SEEK MOLLIFY USG SHOULD WASHINGTON REACTION TO RELEASE BE SHARP. HE IN EFFECT REPORTED TO

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HAVE SAID, "LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT PROBLEM".

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE
INDEED APPROACHED US REGARDING TERRORISTS' RELEASE. SINCE
WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED CAIRO 4577, WE DO NOT KNOW
IF OUR VERSION OF EVENTS FITS WITH GOE PRESENTATION MADE
IN CAIRO TO AMBASSADOR EILTS NOR CAN WE COMMENT ON
DISCREPANCIES WHICH MIGHT EXIST. BUT AS SEEN FROM HERE,
REPORT AS WE HAVE IT APPEARS PLAUSIBLE. AND IN FACT, PRESIDENT
NIMEIRI IN HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR (KHARTOUM
1538) ALLUDED SAME POINT REPORTEDLY MADE BY SADAT RE SIGNIFICANCE
DEFUSING PALESTINIAN ISSUE. WHETHER GOS PUT TO MUCH STOCK IN
EGYPTIAN ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF ANTICIPATED STRAIN IN
GOS-USG RELATIONS IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER QUESTION.
SANDERSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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NNN

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